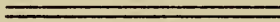


On the misty and mild evening of 25th October, Oversley Wood gave forth another surprise in the form of *L. ornitopus*. *Erranis defoliaria* Clerck was common and very variable as usual, and *Colotois pennaria* Linn. was extremely fresh and included some attractive dark red forms. The following day was similarly mild, calm and overcast and because the weather forecasters predicted no change I decided to set off for the New Forest at 1 p.m. But arriving at Brokenhurst at 4 p.m. I was surprised to find a clear sky and a corresponding drop in temperature. Undeterred by this, I sugared an extensive round of oaks and then set up my m.v. traps and actinics. In between 5 p.m. and 7 p.m. there was a good deal at sugar, *C. vaccinii* being very common, also a few *Allophyes oxyacanthae* Linn., *Agrochola lota* Clerck, *A. circellaris* Hufn. and *Eupsilia transversa* Hufn. By 8 p.m. the temperature was as low as 38°F., but at 11.45 p.m. the sight of cloud cover was very welcome, this brought about a rise to 42°F. by 12.45 p.m. I kept my traps running until 6 a.m. by which time I had been rewarded for my patience with a very fresh *L. ornitopus*.

Looking back on 1976, it was a pleasure when collecting in such a hot summer to be able to set out fully confident of a dry expedition ahead. Yet even in such a season, there were times when I found myself drenched and looking angrily up at the opening skies. Although a good year for some of the better migrants, I was disappointed that in the main few of these came my way.



EARLY INSECT ACTIVITY IN THE STRATHCLYDE REGION. — In the early afternoon of 9th January, 1977 I found a single *Coccinella septempunctata* Linn. walking near the top of a fence post at the southern margin of the wood behind my house at Milton-of-Campsie. Although the day was sunny and quite mild, the beetle was on the shaded side of the post, not in the sun as might be expected.

One of the museum's taxidermists, Mr. D. Raines, reported to me that he had seen and captured a caterpillar walking on the snow on Ben Lomond at an altitude of 2,300 ft. (checked at time of capture with the Ordnance Survey map); also on the 9th. Unfortunately the creature later escaped, but the description may be of some use — about one inch long, brown with a yellow and black pattern, not hairy.

The weather over the Christmas and New Year period was noticeably milder than previously, with only a few frosts and no snow. This doubtless was an important factor in causing such early activity. On the night of the 9th, this milder spell was abruptly ended, two to three inches of snow falling, followed by prolonged frosts. — J. COOTER, Natural History Department, Art Gallery and Museum, Kelvingrove, Glasgow, G3 8AG.